

THE PRESIDENT'S SAY

Some wag has said that a camel is something created by a committee; right now I feel like a committee created by a camel. I have been recently subjected to a series of mild buffetings and kicks, nudges and shoves, and just generally stepped upon. What is more, I brought it all on myself.

In my innocence, I addressed a friendly little communique to the membership a while back inviting people to write and tell me if they would like to be on an NAEB committee and, if so, to list their preferences in order: 1, 2, 3.

It was my feeling, I explained, that there were many who were willing to serve but were often, inadvertently overlooked. Evidently, Many agreed.

I expected a modest response; certainly I was not prepared for a mail return of about 90%. Not only did you answer the questionnaire with indications of your preferences, but almost a fourth of you appended letters indicating the reasons for your choices, recounting your background, or indicating why you should be chosen.

Actually, I was pleased and warmed by this wholehearted response. This had been a call for assistance ("not for glory; a lot of just plain hard work") and, as always, the NAEB responded.

But this reaction, while helping to place more information at my disposal did make the task of selection more difficult and time-consuming. More than ever I wanted not only to get the best people to do certain committee jobs, but I wanted, so far as feasible, to give them the jobs they preferred. This careful sifting and winnowing has taken many days - and nights. Obviously, the results will not please everyone; there are not enough assignments to go around to give a job to all who offered their services and certain committees were "over-subscribed" by as much as 400%.

This year, in order to insure a continuous flow of new blood into the committee system, while yet preserving continuity of experienced personnel, I am initiating an arrangement of staggered terms for committee members. After the initial two years, members will serve three year terms, with three new members being chosen each year to replace three members who rotate off. The small numerals opposite the names indicate the length of terms for each appointee. In general,

these terms relate to the service record of individuals, with veteran committeemen being assigned the shorter terms. Committee Chairmen are subject to reappointment and replacement each year.

Three committees, because of the "ex-officio" composition of the membership, do not come within the "stated term" system: the Executive Committee (Chairman of TV and Radio Boards and the President), the Grant-in-Aids Committee (Chairmen of the Radio Network, Radio Planning, and School Network Committees), and the Awards and Citations Committee (composed exclusively of those who themselves have been awarded citations.)

It is my belief that the arrangement of fixed terms will provide for a regular infusion of new blood, prevent any tendency toward ingrownness, and development of special empires or group monopolies; it is my hope that the membership will welcome this plan as a means of affording greater opportunity for wider participation in the work of their association.

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